POL 14 VIETS

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Saigon 7344 10-16-67

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ACTION EA 19

INFO IO 21,CCO 00,SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,
SAL 01,INR 07,P 04,AID 30,SAH 03,NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,
USIE 00,NSAE 00,RSR 01,/143 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Irma Izenberg DATE 1/20/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

O R 010930Z OCT 67 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7948
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4406
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1043
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2652

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7344

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: VALIDATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

REF: A. SAIGON 7298
B. SAIGON 7333
C. SAIGON 7293

1. ASSEMBLY COMPLETED ITS REVIEW OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS MORNING OCTOBER 1 TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE FINDINGS WITH REGARD TO IRREGULARITIES IN VOTE TALLY SHEETS.

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2. ASSEMBLY REVIEWED EIGHT COMPLAINTS IN MORNING SESSION, REJECTING SIX AND UPHOLDING TWO (FIRST OF WHICH, ILLEGAL MOVEMENT

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OF BALLOT BOXES IN BINH TUY PROVINCE, WAS REPORTED REF A.). FINAL COMPLAINT TO BE UPHELD WAS ONE SUBMITTED BY THREE VOTERS CHARGING THAT ONE POLLING PLACE IN SAIGON RAN OUT OF BALLOTS BY 1400 ON ELECTION DAY. SPECIAL COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THIS WAS SIMILAR TO COMPLAINT FILED BY TRUONG DINH DZU WITH REGARD TO BALLOT SHORTAGE (REF C) AND DECIDED THAT IT WAS EQUALLY VALID.

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3. DEBATE ON THIS COMPLAINT WAS UNDULY DRAWN-OUT, CONSIDERING FACT THAT ASSEMBLY WENT OVER SAME GROUND WHEN DISCUSSING DZU'S SIMILAR COMPLAINT PREVIOUS AFTERNOON. MRS DEPUTIES NGUYEN VAN SANG AND LY QUY CHUNG IMPLIED THAT BALLOT SHORTAGE IN SAIGON WAS INTENTIONAL TACTIC BY GOVERNMENT TO PUT OPPOSITION SLATES AT DISADVANTAGE. NGUYEN VAN SAM, FORMER MRS SYMPATHIZER AND DISCIPLE OF THE LATE TRAN VAN VAN, WHOM MRS DEPUTIES CONSIDER TO HAVE SOLD OUT TO GOVERNMENT, ALSO SAID THAT "LIST 9 MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY" FOR SHORTAGE OF BALLOTS. MRS DEPUTIES WERE AMUSED AT HIS SHOW OF

INDEPENDENCE. NGUYEN VAN HOI AND NGUYEN VAN VI TOOK OPPOSITE POSITION, EMPHASIZING THAT BALLOT SHORTAGE WAS AN UNAVOIDABLE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM AND SOMETHING WHICH AFFECTED ALL CANDIDATES EQUALLY. WHEN ISSUE WAS PUT TO A VOTE 49 DEPUTIES UPHELD COMPLAINT AND 16 VOTED TO REJECT IT. (RELATIVELY LOW VOTE IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING COMPLAINT AS VALID VIOLATION OF ELECTION LAW PROBABLY REFLECTED FEELING OF MANY DEPUTIES THAT ALTHOUGH BALLOT SHORTAGE WAS "ILLEGAL", IT WAS NOT NECESSARILY DELIBERATE.)

4. SUMMING UP, RAPPORTEUR NGUYEN HUU CHUNG NOTED THAT OF MORE THAN 30 FORMAL COMPLAINTS REVIEWED, A TOTAL OF SEVEN WERE ACCEPTED AS VALID:

A. KY STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD OVERTHROW UNWORTHY GOVERNMENT;

B. TV-RADIO PRESENTATIONS BY THIEU AFTER END OF FORMAL

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CAMPAIGN PERIOD;

C. ILLEGAL MOVEMENT OF ONE BALLOT BOX IN HAU NGHIA (NOT, AS REPORTED REF C, THAT POLLING PLACES IN HAU NGHIA DID NOT HAVE SECRET BOOTHS);

D. SOLDIER WITH 3 VOTER CARDS IN MY THO;

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E. COMPLAINT BY TRUONG DINH DZU OF BALLOT SHORTAGE IN SOME POLLING PLACES IN SAIGON AND GIA DINH;

F. ILLEGAL MOVEMENT OF BALLOT BOXES IN BINH TUY (I.E., MOVEMENT OF BOXES BY POLICE UNACCOMPANIED BY CANDIDATES' REPRESENTATIVES);

G. COMPLAINT BY THREE VOTERS OF BALLOT SHORTAGE IN ONE SAIGON POLLING PLACE.

5. ASSEMBLY WILL RECONVENE 1500 OCTOBER 1 TO BEGIN DISCUSSION OF IRREGULARITIES IN TALLY SHEETS.

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